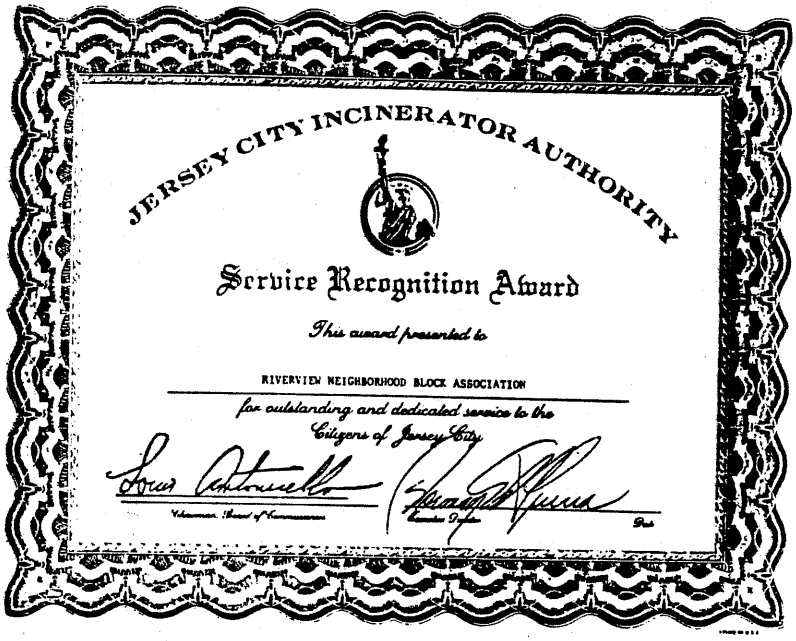
RNA FOR A BETTER LIFE IN THE HEIGHTS

RIVERVIEW Neighborhood Association

NOVEMBER, 1989

232 Ogden Avenue - Jersey City, N.J. 07307 - (201) 798-0493

RNA IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, ORGANIZATION OR ELECTED OFFICIAL



JERSEY CITY INCINERATOR AUTHORITY

Service Recognition Award

This award presented to

RIVERVIEW NEIGHBORHOOD BLOCK ASSOCIATION

for outstanding and dedicated service to the Citizens of Jersey City

"The Jersey Incinerator Authority is proud to announce that your organization has been selected to receive the Service Recognition Award for your outstanding efforts in cleaning the community and trying to make it litter-free. On Friday, October 6, 1989 at 3:00 PM at our facilities at 501 Route 440 Jersey City. The J.C.I.A. will have an open house and Citizens Recognition Day at which time the awards for your efforts in the Clean Community Program will be presented. We congratulate and thank you....."

Norman Guerra, Executive Director

Riverview Neighborhood Association and Anne Hart were two of the 25 Jersey City residents, businesses and associations honored by the Incinerator Authority for outstanding cleanup and recycling efforts. The open house at the Authority's headquarters, was part of their effort to educate citizens about its work, which includes snow removal, street sweeping and demolition. The Incinerator Authority does not incinerate, however: the city's garbage-burner was closed in 1974, because it failed to meet pollution standards.

As 100 guests and workers munched miniature sandwiches and chocolate eclairs off biodegradable paper plates, officials earnestly discussed the importance of garbage.

Jersey City produces a lot of garbage - 350 tons per day, Norman Guerra, executive director, said. Currently, he said, the city recycles about nine percent of that - the newspapers, cardboard, high-grade paper, glass, aluminium, tin cans and plastic soft-drink bottles that are collected once a week.

Every ton of aluminium recycled (that's about 80,000 soda cans) saves the 30 barrels of foreign oil it would take to make new cans instead of reusing old ones, recycling information officer Richard Budinich said. A ton of recycled newspaper saves two or three acres of trees from the axe, he added.

The county's landfill in Kearny will be full by next year, city recycling director Thomas Killeen said, and the planned energy-producing garbage-burning plant won't be running until 1993 or 1994. In the intervening years, the county will have to ship its garbage out of state, upping the costs from the current level of $40 per ton to $100 or $120 per ton, Guerra said.Taxpayers will bear the increased expense.

That's the bad news. But the good news is that recycling saves the city $27,000 a month. More recycling will means more savings, Guerra said. Garbage is ugly, as well as expensive, so the Incinerator Authority presented two-thirds of its awards yesterday to businesses and residents who picked it up.

"I don't see how anybody could stand living in litter and mess," said award recipient Anne Hart, who chairs the environmental committee of the Riverview Neighborhood Association, which also received an award. In her neighborhood, Hart said, a yearly cleanup followed by a flea market has become a "spring-time ritual".

Hart said she also worked with the city engineering department and the Incinerator Authority to clean up Ravine Avenue, which had frequently been blocked by dumped cars.

COMING EVENTS

RNA MEETING: NOVEMBER 14, 1989
7:30 p.m. at the Harborview Health Care Center

GUESTS:

MARILYN ROMAN, President of Jersey City Council
JOHN WARES, Director of F.A.C.T.

"It used to be a mess. Now it's beautiful," Hart said. "When things are really, really nice, even people that don't care don't want to be the first one to throw their garbage down."

The Incinerator Authority welcomes calls from citizens who want help cleaning up their neighborhoods, officials said. The authority will provide garbage bags, trucks for hauling away trash, and biodegradable bags for collecting autumn leaves.

The Incinerator Authority can be reached by calling 547-4645.

(The preceding article was written by Deborah Jaffe of the Jersey Journal.)

RECYCLING - WHAT YOU CAN DO

Recycling has been the topic of many in recent months, whether you are concerned with the land fill problems, saving trees, saving money or your own particular reason, many of you have been recycling all your lives and we should have our ideas with our neighbors.

Would you like to have a unique way of showing off your knick-knacks? Take styrofoam packing cartons and place them together, paint them and place on wall. You can then place your knick-knacks in the little spaces. This is particularly good for a boy's room to show off little cars or solders.

Place a bucket under the drain outside your house. The water can be used to water plants or clean off a sidewalk. The same can be done when you take a shower. The water you run to get the right temperature can be saved in a bucket and then used for house plants. This usually amounts to a gallon a shower, so you're saving money too. You can also cut the top off a large plastic bottle and place it in your garden where it won't really show. This will collect rain water which can then be used to water plants.

Carefully unwrap your presents. The paper can be reused for other presents or children may use them to cover their school books.

If you work in an office and you have letterhead that changes, usually that paper gets thrown out. This could be used by schoolchildren or cut up for pads by using Elmer's glue on the side part of one end and placing a heavy object on top until dry.. The Sisters of St. Nicholas' School will be happy to accept any letterhead paper

Glass jars can be used to keep nails, screws, etc. in place. Nail lids into bottom of shelf, full jars and screw onto lids. For those of you that are not homeowners and wouldn't need jars full of these items, recycle those old medicine bottles and you can have a smaller version of this.

Decorate an egg carton into a jewelry box . That unmatched sock can make a cute puppet. Decorate with those buttons from an old blouse.

I am sure that everyone has an idea or two that they use. Won't you please share them with us.

PARTY TIME

RNA is going to sponsor its fourth annual HOLIDAY PARTY for the Harborview residents. Each year RNA friends and volunteers bake deserts, serve refreshments, and visit with these lovely seniors who live in our neighborhood. This year the festivities will take place on FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 10TH in the afternoon, following the residents' lunch.

As usual, the entertainment will be provided by the children of P.S. 8, who will sing and dance for the residents. These youngsters always bring a bright smile to their faces. Many thanks to Charlie Trefurt, the school principal, for helping organize this affair.

If anyone is interested in baking cakes, cookies, or dietetic goodies,please contact Maria Tuzzo, at 659-2245, after 6 p.m. We also need volunteers to serve the refreshments and, more importantly, spend a pleasant afternoon with these people

Come and join us and discover our secret - THAT IT'S REALLY A LOT OF FUN !

FOOD AND TOY DRIVES:

It is never to soon to think about helping the unfortunate in our area. RNA is again conducting a food and toy drive for the Thanksgiving and Christmas holidays. Members should bring any donations to the November meeting. The food drive donations should consist of dry or canned foods only. The toy drive donations can be either new or used toys, BUT they must be in good working condition. RNA will also accept money contributions, which will be used to purchase food and toys. For more information, or people interested in volunteering their time to this project, call 659-2245 after 6 P.M.

MEETING MINUTES

The October meeting of the Riverview Neighborhood Association was a sure success and was attended by a capacity crowd.

The first order of business was the presentation of two Service Recognition Awards given to RNA and Anne Hart by the J.C. Incinerator Authority. The awards were accepted by Anne Hart, our environmental officer, at a recent function at the Authority's headquarters. Both Anne and RNA were praised for their efforts to clean up the neighborhood and their active participation in the City's recycling program. (see article on page one.)

Our main guest speaker, Mayor Gerald McCann did not attend the meeting, but sent Deputy Mayor Dominick Pugliese as his representative. Mr. Pugliese was hard pressed by members who were concerned with the lack of adequate police protection and the indifferent attitude of sanitation workers in keeping our streets garbage free. Complaints were also made about the Dept. of Public Works in general - as being ineffective and unreliable. Mr. Pugliese was also made aware of the startling rise in illegal drug activity in the area. While he

did not have ready answers to these problems, he did suggest that he would set up a meeting between a group of RNA members and the directors of the departments involved: to make them aware of the problems - and ultimately accountable to us, the citizens. Mr. Pugliese was also questioned on the new administration's tax abatement policy and the dire effect it has on the taxpayer.

The evening's other two guests were Assemblymen Robert Menendez and Bernard Kenny of the 33rd District. Both men first gave a brief synopsis of the legislation they have been involved with in the State house. Then they addressed questions from the members concerning the need for bottle deposit legislation to help the recycling effort and eliminate the problem of glass litter. They also tried to address the crisis of illegal drugs and the profound effect it has in destabilizing our community, the need for drug rehabilitation facilities, the need for educational and preventative measures and the need for more jail space.

Some other business discussed was our annual party for the residents of Harborview, which will be held on November 10th; our collection of food and toys for the less fortunate and our efforts to gain business advertisements for our newsletter.

Please join us next month, on Tuesday, November 14th, when we will present Mr. Thomas Killeen, the Recycling Director of the J.C. Incinerator Authority as our guest speaker. The time of the meeting is 7:30 p.m. and the place is the Harborview Health Care Center.

Maria Tuzzo, Secretary

LETTERS LETTERS LETTERS

Dear RNA,

Thank you for including F.A.C.T. on your newsletter mailing list. We also appreciate our article being published in the newsletter. Future RNA publications would be welcome.

We share mutual concerns about the community's health and welfare. F.A.C.T. can certainly benefit from the articles you print.

Your efforts to form a Coalition of Heights community groups is of interest to F.A.C.T. As pointed out in our article, the lack of affordable Rehab facilities in Hudson County has a profound effect on the local drug programs. Too often we feel inadequate and ineffectual. With the support of strong Civic Organizations the situation could possibly change and the quality of life in our communities improved.

Member's of F.A.C.T.'s Staff are available to give Substance Abuse Awareness and Prevention presentations. We would like the opportunity to address your organization to acquaint your members with F.A.C.T.'s functions.

Rita M. Lattucca
F.A.C.T. (Families of Addicted Children Today)
477 Central Avenue
653-9432

Dear Vito Brunetti,

I was pleased to meet you and hear your comments on behalf of the Riverview Neighborhood Association during our September 11, 1989 Informational meeting.

As we discussed, you are working to form a coalition, and would like that group represented on our Alternatives Analysis Advisory Committee. I noticed in your recent newsletter you have made progress. Please report back to me on the status of your efforts, as well as a suggested representative from your group.

We have scheduled two additional meetings that I thought you'd like to know about. On November 1, we will host a Spanish language meeting in West New York, which will be conducted by our Advisory Committee Vice Chairman Albio Sires. Also scheduled is a November 9 "public meeting", the official meeting (meaning it has been advertised in the Federal Register) for the Alternatives Analysis process. It will also be in Jersey City Hall, beginning at 7 p.m.

Martin E. Robins, Director
Hudson River Waterfront Transportation
Alternatives Analysis Project
N. J. Transit
2 Journal Square, 8th floor
Jersey City, 07306
(201) 714-4700

(The following is a letter written by one of our property owners concerning the condemned property at 285 Ogden Avenue. As our neighbors are aware, there are two houses - 253 and 285- that are in the process of being demolished. The Incinerator Authority has been tearing down 253 Ogden Avenue for the last two months and as of October 13th, the structure was finally leveled. All that needs to be done now is to clear the lot and fence it off for safety as well as security reasons. On October 6th, work began at 285 Ogden Avenue.)

Mr. Micheal Regan
Buildings Department
26 Journal Square

Thank you for your efforts leading to the condemnation of 285 Ogden Avenue in the Heights, a dangerous eyesore located between Riverview Park and my house at 283 Ogden Avenue. Your help is appreciated, and neighbors and I look forward to its demolition.

Although an inspection by one of your engineers some time ago indicated that there was no immediate danger, you advised me to let you know if later conditions indicated danger. This now appears to be the case.

Within the last week, two of the 4 by 8 foot sheets of plywood covering the windows of 285 have fallen down from the third story! The leading edge of one of them landed ten feet within my backyard, making an impression in the ground 3 inches deep. Another landed in the park next to the house, cutting off branches of bushes growing there. That one landed only a few feet from the sidewalk! Other sheets of plywood are no better

fastened to the house than these two were.

This presents a dangerous situation to people walking past this house on the sidewalk and to tenants in my backyard. Prompt action to check and secure these sheets of plywood is requested.

My tenants have also reported hearing more vagrants in this house. The permanent solution to the dangers of this house, of course, is its demolition. According to Louise of the Incinerator Authority, all papers needed for its demolition are now in and it awaits the necessary permits from your Buildings Department. Your help in seeing that this building is now demolished as quickly as possible will be most appreciated.

Ray Mueller
[A copy of this letter and a request for assistance was also forwarded to Councilman Dan Waddleton.]

To the City Clerk for the Jersey City Municipal Council:

We in the Pershing Field Neighborhood Association would like to thank the Jersey city Municipal council for its tabling of the Ordinance that would have renamed Pershing Plaza, the street that is the borderline of Wards C and D.The public input on the subject came from the Paulus Hook activist, Joe Duffy, Reservoir #2 Association President Paul Bozart, veteran Peter Busacca, and Pershing Field Association organizer Vincent Doiretacci - alongside many other veterans, Res.#2 and Pershing Field Associations' members.

Our goal was seen and accomplished - that goal is to have direct, positive and innovative input into our neighborhood and city affairs.We respectfully ask that in the future, in regards to any type of name change, major or minor construction or renovation of the City, in and around Reservoir #2 and Pershing Field, that the Heights Coalition of Neighborhood Associations be contacted for Community input for the good of the Public.

Our next issue is the Preservation of RESERVIOR #3, all suggestions are welcome.

Louis DeStefano
Acting Corresponding Secretary
Pershing Field Neighborhood Association

(RNA WELCOMES ALL COMMENTS AND LETTERS FROM ITS MEMBERS AND FRIENDS.)

SAFE AT HOME AND AWAY FROM IT

(Reprinted from New Day (PSE.& G)

Too many seniors are afraid to leave their homes, even to run ordinary errands. They fear break-ins while they're away, and they fear other kinds of dangers out in the community. Now there's a program that's open to everyone over age 60. It's called the Senior Citizen Security Housing and Transportation Program, and it's funded by a group of non-profit organizations.

At home, you can receive a visit from a crime-prevention officer who will see what needs to be done to make your home more secure.

Away from home, the program can arrange for an escort to pick you up at your door and take you where you're going (shopping, doctor, bank, wherever) and then return you to your door again and see you safely in.

The program costs nothing if you meet the income guidelines. If your income is above the amount, you will have to pay 25% of the cost. To sign up, just call your County Office on Aging, or call the New Jersey Division on Aging at 1-800-792-8820.

SAFER NEIGHBORHOODS FOR KIDS

With PSE & G's new ChildWatch Program, its electric and gas workers stand ready to assist children in emergency situations. Because many of our people are working out in the community, and many of them operate radio-equipped vehicles, they're in a unique position to summon help from police if a child is in trouble and the usual authorities are not available.

Children will learn about ChildWatch in their schools through a PSE & G program. You can help make the program a success by explaining it to children. If you see a PSE & G employee or truck, point it out to the youngsters. Also, PSE & G will have a ChildWatch bumper sticker on all their radio-equipped vehicles.

To obtain a ChildWatch brochure, contact PSE & G at 1-800-854-4444 and ask for ChildWatch information.

(THE FOLLOWING TWO ARTICLES ARE REPRINTED FROM THE OFFICE OF ADVOCACY FOR THE HANDICAPPED BULLETIN)

MOTORISTS ARE REMINDED

That bicycles have the same legal rights to the road as motor vehicles. By the same token bicyclists must also obey all the traffic laws that govern motorists.

Bicyclists are urged to stop at all stop signs and red lights, use appropriate hand signals at least 100 feet before stopping or turning, ride in the same direction as traffic on the far right side of the road and never ride between lanes of traffic or hang onto other vehicles.

At night, a bicyclist must use a headlight visible from at least 500 feet behind. For added safety bicyclists should also use a rearview mirror and a helmet.

WHEELCHAIRS

If you wish to offer assistance to a person in a wheelchair, do so but wait until your offer is accepted before you help. Some instruction from the person using the wheelchair may be necessary to make your assistance as painless as possible. Do not push the person without first asking if he/she would like your help. An unexpected push can throw a wheelchair user off balance, possibly resulting in physical injury.

Do not be mislead into thinking all wheelchair users can't walk. Some person who use wheelchairs can walk with the aid of canes, braces, walkers or crutches. Using a wheelchair some of the time may be a means of conserving energy and getting about quickly.

When talking to a person in a wheelchair, don't be a "pain in the neck". If the conversation continues for more than a few minutes, sit down, kneel or squat if convenient. Do remember when giving directions to consider distance and weather conditions as well as physical obstacles such as stairs, curbs, or steep hills or inclines.

Most importantly, remember that a person in a wheelchair is just that, "a person".

LEARN TO LIKE YOURSELF

(GETTING ALONG WITH THE PERSON IN THE MIRROR)

Respect yourself. Accept who you re--strengths and weaknesses, talents, traits,personality, the whole package. There is much about you to develop and appreciate.

Listen to yourself. Your feelings and opinions are valid. Believe them; speak them honestly. Act on what you think is right and what you think will fulfill you.

Make time alone a priority. To better understand yourself, spending time alone is essential. It can be "think time" or time involved in a hobby.--something you can get absorbed in.

Set goals for yourself. Make sure they're realistic. Achievements, large or small, create a sense of accomplishment and pride. Enjoy them and reward yourself as you meet goals.

Reject negative thoughts about yourself. Self-defeating statements just reinforce poor self-esteem. If your boss seemed dissatisfied with something you did, don't think "I'm just no good at this." Try, "What can I do to improve on it next time around?' Working to increase your skills will make you feel more capable and confident.

Learn to love yourself. Be as gentle with yourself as you'd like others to be with you. Allow yourself to make mistakes without self-condemnation.

NEWSLETTER STAFF

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RECIPE OF THE MONTH:

PUMPKIN CHEESE PIE

2 Unbaked 9 inch pie shells
3 Cups pumpkin puree (Fresh or canned)
1 cup firmly packed light brown sugar
1 1/2 teaspoons cinnamon
1 1/2 teaspoons ginger
3/4 teaspoon nutmeg
3/4 teaspoon cloves
3 eggs, slightly beaten
1 1/2 cups evaporated milk
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Preheat over to 350
Combine all filing ingredients in large bowl of electric mixer. Beat well. Divide between the two pie shells.

Topping
12 ounces cream cheese, softened
3/4 Cup sugar
3 eggs, slightly beaten
1 1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract

Combine all topping ingredients in small bowl of electric mixer. Beat until smooth. spoon mixture carefully over pumpkin filling, dividing between the two pies.
Bake for 50 to 60 minutes or until knife inserted in center comes out clean. Cool on racks. Chill for 24 hours before serving.

LAST BUT NOT LEAST:

"GIFTGIVING"

The best gift a parent can give his child is the gift of himself--his time. Material things mean little, if there is not someone to share them with.

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YOU can make a difference in the war on drugs
YOU may have information that can help us
WE HAVE A HOT LINE:1-800-962-0056

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Your information will be kept CONFIDENTIAL. It can be ANONYMOUS.

PAUL M. DE PASCALE
HUDSON COUNTY PROSECUTOR

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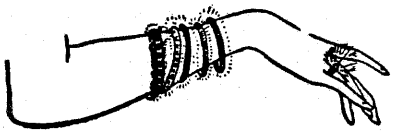

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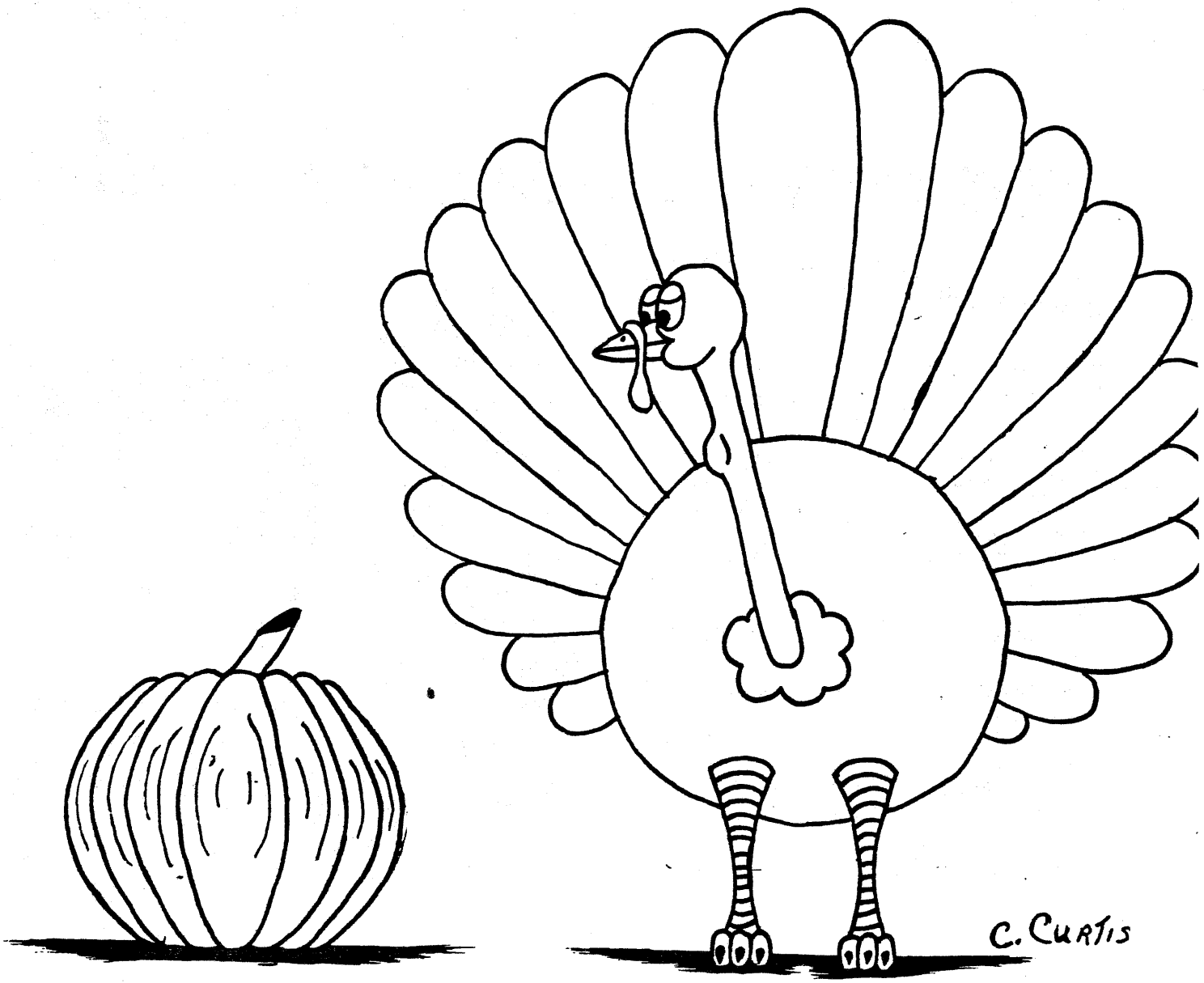

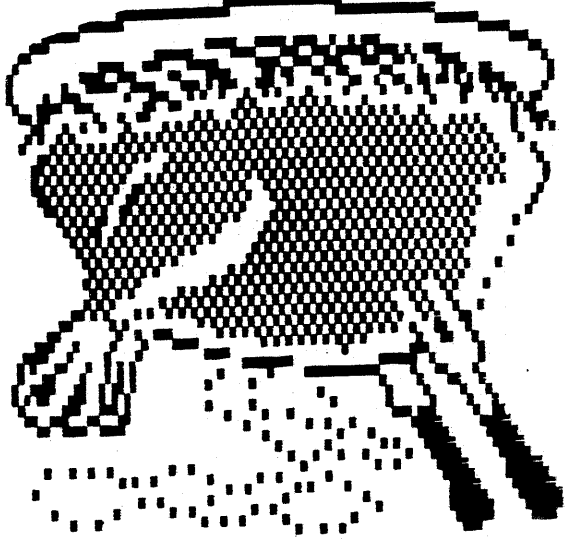

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LEAF COLLECTION SCHEDULE FOR THE NORTH ZONE

NOV. 9

NOV. 30

DEC. 14

LEAF RELIEF HOTLINE: 432-4645

PLEASE PUT YOUR LEAVES IN BIODEGRADABLE BAGS, WHICH CAN BE OBTAINED THROUGH THE INCINERATOR AUTHORITY (THEY CAN ALSO BE PICKED UP AT THE NEXT RNA MEETING).